



CHRISTIAN:

EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH OF THE CANTON OF ZURICH

The Evangelical Reformed Church is a member of the Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches. It traces its roots back to the Reformation, which came to Zurich in 1519 when Ulrich Zwingli became Leutpriester at the Grossmunster in Zurich. It has around 440,000 members with around 170 parishes and 450 clergy.

Investment activity is not one of the core tasks of the Church. However, financial funds that are held will be managed responsibly by the Church Council which strives for a sustainable investment policy. Of the CHF 7.4m (US\$7.5m) held in 2017, the target is for 30% to be in shares and funds; 60% in bonds and 10% in the money market.

There is currently no specific set of guidelines on faith-consistent investment adopted formally by the Reformed Church. And up until now there is no positive screening

Positive Screening

For the Church, ethically sustainable, socially and ecologically responsible investment behaviour is an important task. There is an active preference for investing in companies characterised by sustainable entrepreneurial value creation.

It is important in investment, as for many aspects of Church activity, that the

needs of the present generations are satisfied, but that future generations are remembered, and given the opportunity to meet their needs.

Although it does not currently have an FCI policy the Church would find it helpful to learn from positive examples from other churches of religions.

Negative screening

The Church will not invest in companies that:

- Violate social and environmental standards
- Manufacture or trade armaments
- Systematically violate human rights systematically
- Exploit resources irresponsibly

The negative screening is currently done by the bank with which the Church funds are invested.

This paper was written by Stefan Grotefeld, head of the Lebenswelten department of the Reformed Church of Zurich